Mr. M. Subbiah.—If Government's policy should be defined most of these questions will cease to come before Government.

Reply of Government.—Government know the defects of these schools. The whole question will be reviewed and a note on the policy of Government published for general information and criticisms before next Dasara.

SUBJECT No. 93.

Timely disbursement of payment to teachers of V. E. and Grant-in-aid schools.

Messrs. Anantarajappa and Anantalakshminaranappa, Tumkur Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—Teachers' conferences may be arranged to be held at each hobli headquarters on the 10th of every month so that Shekdars may attend the conferences and disburse the pay to the teachers assembled there.

Mr. Narasimhachar.—The village school teachers are put to considerable hardship by not getting their pay sometimes for months together. The existing system of disbursing the pay should be changed.

Reply of Government.—A new system has been introduced by G. O. No. 8529-39—Edn. 33-18-3, dated 8-3-19. Members may see how it works.

SUBJECT No. 94.

(1) Panchama schools and education for the Panchamas; (2) Non-admission of Panchamas into A.-V. schools meant for other communities.

(1) Messrs. Padmanna, Chandrasekariah and K. Venkatasamiah, Nanjangud Taluk.

(2) Messrs. Adinarayanaiya, Chandrasekharaiah, Devasettappa, Dodballapur Taluk; Gurusambulingappa, Dodballapur Municipality.

Mr. K. Venkatasamaiya.—The facilities already created for the education of the Panchamas are not enough.

Dewan.—Government know the whole question and are doing what they can.

Mr. Venkatasamaiya.—We only request that more attention may be given to the subject.

Dewan.—Government propose doing so.

Mr. Venkatasamaiya.—As to the admission of Panchamas into the general schools.....

Dewan.—I advise that the member may not insist on discussing this subject.

Mr. Venkatasamaiya.—If Government will kindly consider the whole question and create more facilities for the education of Panchamas in schools meant to them exclusively we shall be glad to leave the whole thing to Government. We shall not insist on discussing the subject.

SUBJECT No. 95.

Free Education.

(1) Ramanuja Iyengar, Gubbi Taluk.

(2) Messrs. C. Srinivasa Rao, C. Vasudeva Rao, T. B. Mallegowda, B. Kesaviah, Chikmagalur Taluk; Nanjundiah, Chikmagalur Municipality; H. Krishna Rao, K. Krishnappa, and H. Hucha Rao, Koppa Taluk; C. Narainswami Chetti, Chikballapur Taluk.

(3) (*a*) Messrs. V. Nageswara Aiyar, Kolar Municipality; N. Raghavendrappa and K. Giriyappa, Honnali Taluk; and S. R. Balakrishna Rao, Shimoga Taluk; Gurunanja Wadiyar, Devanhalli Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—*Mr. Srinivasa Rao* in introducing the subject referred to the circumstances under which the Representative Assembly voted for the levy of income-tax at a previous session. He said that though there was no definite promise from Government that education would be made free and the only promise made by Government was, to ear-mark the tax for purposes of education, the members voted for income-tax in the hope that education would be made free. He represented that the system of levying fees operated as a

(b) Messrs. C. Vamana Rao, N. Subba Rao and M. Subbanna, Nagar Taluk.

(c) Messrs. N. S. Nanjundaiya, A. Narayanaiengar, Hassan Municipality; B. Alasingrachar, H. V. Rangasami, Hassan Taluk; S. Venkatesaiya, Hassan District Agricultural and Industrial Association; B. Anantharamaiengar, Hole-Narsipur Municipality; Narasimhachar, Ananthakesavachar, Belur Taluk; B. Nanjegowda, B. Basavegowda, Manjarabad Taluk; Dasappa, Marula Siddappa, Arsikere Taluk; A. V. Suryanarayana Setty, Arkalgud Taluk; M. Chowdaiya, Hassan District Board; K. M. Krishnappa, Hole-Narsipur Taluk; H. Thimmappaiya, Manjarabad Taluk; A. Ananthiah, Nagar Sabha; and C. Subba Rao, Shimoga District Board.

(4) Mr. R. Gopalaswami Iyer, Bangalore District Board.

hardship on the rural classes who have to spend large sums, exclusive of fees for the higher education of their children, as they have to resort to towns, that a large majority of the population were poor and that there was a large number of intelligent and promising children among them and the State should so alter its policy as to draw out these pupils, educate them, and make them useful citizens. He quoted Sir Aushtosh Mukherji's views regarding free education.

Mr. Karnick Krishnamurti Rao supported the views of Mr. Srinivasa Rao.

Mr. Krishnasastri followed with a very eloquent appeal. He said that from the circumstances under which the Representative Assembly voted for income-tax they understood the attitude of Government to be one of promise of free education and that the hopes thus awakened should be fulfilled. The State created a thirst for education and the State should remove the obstacles that stood in the way of the people fulfilling their desire. Mr. Kadaba Ramanuja Iyengar advocated the extension of free education over the whole State as the only means of preventing poverty, drunkenness and ignorance among the lower classes.

Mr. Gundu Rao stated that the State has made primary education compulsory and in every boy of school-going age, created a taste for study. The State should therefore provide further facilities for the cultivation of this taste by making education free in all grades. Mr. Narasimhachar of T.-Narsipur supported the views of Mr. Gundu Rao. He added that by free primary education at present pupils in rural areas not only acquired a taste for study but also a distaste for their rural occupations, and that to make them more useful citizens, it was necessary to provide for their receiving secondary education.

Mr. M. Subbaiya was not in favour of free education in the higher grades as advocated. He made a long speech referring to the various grades of education. He referred to the unsatisfactory condition of the aided Primary Schools and recommended their conversion to Government institutions. At present, the grants were mostly waste. The allotment for primary education would continue to be a waste, as long as education up to the Lower Secondary grade is not made free. If it was a question of funds, education in the Middle School course may be made free even at the cost of reducing the grants-in-aid for primary education. Such a reform, he said, would benefit all classes alike. The time had not come

however to make higher education free. One of the objections was, that those who could afford ought not to be let off but made to pay. Secondly, if it was made free, people would come from outside. If it is made free, it would be necessary to make it free only to Mysoreans. On the whole, he thought it more desirable to continue to levy fees and to help poor people with a large number of scholarships which may be given, irrespective of caste and class.

Mr. R. Gopalaswami Iyer supported the proposal for free education in a modified form. He said education should be free only in the case of the poor. It is this class that have a large number of children to educate and they are unable to do so.

Mr. B. Narasinga Rao pointed out the significance of the proposition having been sent up from 6 Districts, a fact indicating not merely the support it received from the members in the Assembly but from the leading representatives at the meetings in the districts. He added that the argument that the rich would escape paying fees was untenable as they would be made to pay income-tax to be car-marked for education. Financially, the question was after all one of remitting a small sum of Rs. 1,60,000. As regards the objection that larger allotments up to a crore of rupees for education would become necessary, he added that all of them eagerly looked forward to the day when Government would have to spend a crore of rupees on Education and that they would raise no objection even to the levy of a special cess, if necessary, to meet the expenditure in that case. He said that the fear that the schools would be overcrowded, if education was made free was unfounded as the cost of education, exclusive of fees, was several times the sum spent on fees. He concluded by saying that Mysore was a model State and it was for the State to take the lead in introducing free education in India.

Mr. B. Srinivasiengar added that the aided schools were ephemeral and inefficient and that the additional cost of converting an aided school to a Government institution was only Rs. 6 per mensem. The income of Rs. 6 lakhs from income-tax would not only provide for the conversion of aided schools, but would leave a large balance behind, for other improvements in education.

Mr. C. Srinivasa Rao replied to the speakers on the subject by adding that poor pupils depended on the charity of liberal minded citizens for food and that Government should co-operate with the public in educating the poor children by abolishing fees. The number of parents who could afford to pay was small, the amount to-

be remitted was only Rs. 1,60,000 and he appealed to the generosity of His Highness the Maharaja to introduce this salutary reform in the State. He also added that the allotment for backward class scholarships should be increased.

Dewan.—This subject has been discussed in this Assembly more than once. Government are gratified at the interest taken by the members in the subject and they note that the feeling in favour of free education is becoming stronger. But there are practical difficulties to the introduction of free education. Free education does not mean mere abolition of school fees. Some members have said that if Government abolish school fees they will be satisfied. But, by merely abolishing school fees, we shall not have established free education. The bulk of the expenditure under primary education is at present, met from several sources, from Government grants, from contribution from villagers and from Village School Fund. To make education free, the State would have to find all the money for all this expenditure. Government have to consider first, how to make primary education free. Another problem before Government is how to distribute equally, the burden of education amongst all classes of the people. As the burden should be distributed equally, facilities also must be given equally to all classes for education at every stage. All these questions are now under review and a note on the policy which Government propose to adopt, will soon be published for general information. That is all I can say at present. The proposal now made, of abolishing school fees, touches not only Lower Secondary classes, but the High School and the University classes as well. The bulk of the 8,000 and odd of the former which are practically free so far as school fee is concerned, is maintained by certain kinds of levies from people; and we have provided sufficient funds for increasing the inadequate expenditure that is now being met for these schools which are admittedly inefficient. As for helping the poor, there are 25 per cent of free studentships in Lower Secondary classes, 33⅓ per cent in the High School classes, 50 per cent in the Engineering College and 40 per cent for the University. These are all for Mysoreans. These free studentships go a great way to make education free in the different grades. As I said, the whole question is a question of ways and means, and not merely a question of abolishing fees to the extent of 1½ lakhs of rupees. And any suggestions which the members may wish to make on the note which will be published, will be carefully considered by Government before final action is taken.